

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A bone plate comprising with a longitudinal axis, a bone-contacting bottom side and a top side with at least one complex aperture each complex aperture comprised of at least one set of two overlapping holes having an offset of a given distance between centers thereof, such offset defining a necked down portion between the overlapping holes, wherein any two immediately adjacent overlapping holes provide the complex aperture with an hourglass shape in plan view and wherein each overlapping hole has an upper portion extending from the top side part-way through a thickness of the bone plate and a lower portion extending from where the upper portion ends to the bottom side of the bone plate, the upper portion having a frusto-conical shape in cross-section and the lower portion being a female threaded surface having surfaces formed therein adapted to lock with threads of a corresponding bone screw, each such set of overlapping holes communicating through the plate from the top to the bottom side.

2. (Original) The bone plate of claim 1, wherein the overlapping holes are formed normal to the top side of the plate.

3. (Original) The bone plate of claim 1, wherein the overlapping holes are formed at an angle offset from normal to the top side of the plate.

4. (Original) The bone plate of claim 1, wherein at least one of the overlapping holes is formed normal to the top side of the plate and at least a second of the overlapping holes is formed at an angle offset from normal to the top side of the plate.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim 1, wherein the threaded complex aperture further comprises multiple sets of overlapping holes.

7. (Original) The bone plate of claim 6, wherein the overlapping holes are formed normal to the top side of the plate.

8. (Original) The bone plate of claim 6, wherein the overlapping holes are formed at an angle offset from normal to the top side of the plate.

9. (Original) The bone plate of claim 6, wherein at least one of the overlapping holes is formed normal to the top side of the plate and at least a second of the overlapping holes is formed at an angle offset from normal to the top side of the plate.

10. (Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim 6, wherein the multiple sets of overlapping holes are aligned ~~on the~~ along a longitudinal axis.

11. (Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim 6, wherein the multiple sets of overlapping holes are positioned in a staggered arrangement from ~~the~~ a longitudinal axis.

12. (Original) The bone plate of claim 11, wherein the overlapping holes are formed normal to the top side of the plate.

13. (Original) The bone plate of claim 11, wherein the overlapping holes are formed at an angle offset from normal to the top side of the plate.

14. (Original) The bone plate of claim 11, wherein at least one of the overlapping holes is formed normal to the top side of the plate and at least a second of the overlapping holes is formed at an angle offset from normal to the top side of the plate.

15. to 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim 1 wherein the ~~set of~~ at least two overlapping holes ~~is~~ are adapted to receive a bone screw with a head and a bone-engaging thread.

20. (Original) The bone plate of claim 19, wherein the head of the bone screw has a plate engaging thread.

21. (Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim 19, wherein the at least two overlapping holes are formed normal to the top side of the plate.

22. (Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim 19, wherein at least one of the at least two overlapping holes are formed at an angle offset from normal to the top side of the plate.

23. (Original) The bone plate of claim 19, wherein at least one of the overlapping holes is formed normal to the top side of the plate and at least a second of the overlapping holes is formed at an angle offset from normal to the top side of the plate.

24. to 27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim 1, wherein the set complex aperture is comprised of three overlapping holes.

29. (Original) The bone plate of claim 28, wherein the overlapping holes are formed normal to the top side of the plate.

30. (Original) The bone plate of claim 28, wherein the overlapping holes are formed at an angle offset from normal to the top side of the plate.

31. (Original) The bone plate of claim 28, wherein at least one of the overlapping holes is formed normal to the top side of the plate and at least a second of the overlapping holes is formed at an angle offset from normal to the top side of the plate.

32. (Previously Presented) An orthopaedic kit including:

- a. a bone plate according to claim 1; and
- b. at least one bone screw engageable with the bone plate.

33. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 32, further comprising a drill guide having a main drill guide surface and opposite end portions, one end portion of which is securely engageable with the threaded multi-faceted surface of the lower portion of each overlapping [[a]] hole in the bone plate so as to securely hold the drill guide in a desired orientation with respect to the bone plate for stabilizing a drill used in an orthopaedic procedure.

34. (Currently Amended) A bone plate with a longitudinal axis, a bone-contacting bottom side and a top side with a plurality of sets of overlapping holes, each set comprised of at least two overlapping holes having an offset of a given distance between centers thereof and oriented along the longitudinal axis for securing the plate to a long bone, ~~such offset defining a necked down portion between the overlapping holes, each overlapping hole communicating through the plate from the top to the bottom side,~~ wherein each of the at least two overlapping holes of each set of overlapping holes has an upper portion extending from the top side part-way through a thickness of the bone plate and a lower portion extending from where the upper portion ends to the bottom side of the bone plate, the upper portion having a frusto-conical shape in cross-section devoid of threads and the lower portion being a threaded surface adapted to lock with threads of a corresponding bone screw have threads adapted to receive a bone screw with a threaded head and a bone engaging threaded shank.

35. (Currently Amended) A bone plate with a longitudinal axis, a bone-contacting bottom side and a top side with a plurality of sets of overlapping holes, each set comprised of at least two overlapping holes having an offset of a given distance between centers thereof and oriented along the longitudinal axis for securing the plate to a long bone, wherein any two immediately adjacent overlapping holes provide the complex aperture with an hourglass shape in plan view, such offset defining a necked down portion between the overlapping holes, each overlapping hole through the plate from the top to the bottom side, and wherein each of the at least two overlapping holes of each set of overlapping holes has an upper portion extending from the top side part-way through a thickness of the bone plate and a lower portion extending from where the upper portion ends to the bottom

side of the bone plate, the upper portion having a frusto-conical shape in cross-section devoid of threads and the lower portion being a threaded surface adapted to lock with threads of a corresponding bone screw having threaded surfaces adapted to receive bone screws with a threaded head and a bone engaging threaded shank, wherein the overlapping holes have centers substantially aligned along the longitudinal axis of the plate.

36. (Currently Amended) A bone plate with a longitudinal axis, a bone-contacting bottom side and a top side with a plurality of threaded apertures communicating through the plate from the top to the bottom side, at least one of the threaded apertures comprised of overlapping holes having an offset of a given distance between centers thereof and oriented along the longitudinal axis for securing the plate to a long bone, wherein any two immediately adjacent overlapping holes provide the complex aperture with an hourglass shape in plan view, such offset defining a necked down portion between the overlapping holes, and wherein each overlapping hole has an upper portion extending from the top side part-way through a thickness of the bone plate and a lower portion extending from where the upper portion ends to the bottom side of the bone plate, the upper portion having a frusto-conical shape in cross-section devoid of threads and the lower portion being a threaded surface adapted to lock with threads of a corresponding bone screw having a threaded surface adapted to receive a bone screw with a head and a bone engaging thread, the overlapping holes further having centers staggered about the longitudinal axis of the plate.

37. (Currently Amended) A bone plate with a longitudinal axis, a bone-contacting bottom side having a total area and a top side with a plurality of threaded apertures which communicate through the plate from the top side to the bottom side, at least two of the apertures comprising one of which is a set of overlapping holes having an offset of a given distance between centers thereof and oriented along the longitudinal axis for securing the plate to a long bone, ~~such offset defining a necked down portion between the overlapping holes, each overlapping hole, wherein any two immediately adjacent overlapping holes provide the complex aperture with an hourglass shape in plan view and wherein each of the overlapping holes have has an upper portion extending from the top side part-way through a thickness of the bone plate and a lower portion extending from where the upper portion ends to the bottom side of the bone plate, the upper portion having a frusto-conical shape in cross-section devoid of threads and the lower portion being a threaded surface adapted to lock with threads of a corresponding bone screw multifaceted surfaces~~ and wherein the bottom side includes recesses located between adjacent threaded apertures and which are substantially located exclusively on the bottom side, the recesses being sized so as to define a cross-section transverse to the longitudinal axis and across the recesses that ensures that a yield strength in bending across the recesses is less than across a threaded aperture.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ the bone plate of claim 37, wherein the recesses are substantially rectangular in form.

39. (Original) The bone plate of claim 37, wherein the recesses are equally spaced along the longitudinal axis.

40. (Original) The bone plate of claim 37, wherein the total area removed from the bottom side due to the recesses is less than or equal to 50% of the total surface area of the bottom side.

41. (Original) The bone plate of claim 37, wherein the recesses are transverse and extend across the width of the bone plate.

42. (Original) The bone plate of claim 37, wherein the recesses extend from a side of the bone plate transversely toward the longitudinal axis but do not cross the axis.

43. (New) The bone plate of claim 1 wherein the threaded surface is a multi-faceted surface.

44. (New) The bone plate of claim 1 wherein the multi-faceted surface is a coaxial series of annular grooves.